

# ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

## PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

<b>PROJECT NAME:</b> # 1187 – Rincon Water Development Construction			
<b>PROJECT COORDINATOR:</b> Joseph Currie		<b>BRANCH/REGION:</b> SSDV Development Branch/Region III	
<b>PROJECT FUNDING:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Other  <small>(double click box to check/uncheck)</small>		<b>FEDERAL AID GRANT # AND/OR FUNDING SOURCE NAME (s):</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>FW-20D – SSDV Development Branch Personnel</b></li> </ul>	
<b>IMPLEMENTATION DATE(s):</b> Oct., 2011 – April , 2012		<b>LANDOWNER(s):</b> BLM Kingman District Office	
<b>COOPERATIVE PARTIE(s):</b> BLM Kingman District Office, AZ Game & Fish Dept.			
<b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION(s):</b>	<b>TOWNSHIP</b>	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>SECTION</b>
	T23N	R11W	16 NENE
<b>UTM/GPS CORR DinATES:</b>	N35° 22.963’ 3918218mN	W113° 26.337’ 278461mE	NAD83 12S-NAD83

## BACKGROUND

The cooperators propose to construct a water development located in the Cottonwood Mountains in GMU 18A, located approximately 10 miles SE of Truxton, in Mohave County. The plant community occurring at the site is Arizona Upland Sonoran Desertscrub.

BLM determined that the proposed construction of the water development would be xxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxon biological or cultural resources. An HDMS search detected one special status species (Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed) occurring within 3 miles of the project area, therefore a Section 7 consultation is required. The area is located within the 10J area for the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). Due to the low density and highly mobile nature of the condor this project would not negatively affect this species. When feasible other wildlife encountered will too be moved out of

harm's way, likely less than 100' from the project site. Numerous game and nongame (bird, reptile, amphibian, and invertebrate) species inhabit the wilderness area and will potentially utilize the water catchment.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The Department and cooperators are proposing to develop this wildlife water development to create a more permanent reliable water source for wildlife in the area. Currently the closest permanent water source is approximately 3 miles away. The primary purpose of this project is to provide reliable and permanent source of water for wildlife. Mule deer and Elk would benefit from the redevelopment of this catchment, as well as other native mammals, birds, herpetofauna, and invertebrates.

### **PROJECT/PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

We propose to develop the Rincon water development by placing new storage tanks, walk-in trough, and pipelines in the location indicated on the map attached. The Rincon water development would be assembled as follows.

- 1) Possible minor road repairs would be necessary to transport materials and equipment to project site. The backhoe would be used within the existing road bed to smooth out eroded areas of the road that make transporting equipment difficult or damaging equipment probable.
- 2) Excavate a hole approximately 5' deep X 20' wide X 40' long to place 2 – 18' diameter fiberglass ring tanks in. Each tank has a capacity of approximately 5,700 gallons.
- 3) Dig a 3' to 5' deep by 20' to 60' long trench to place a 3" Sch. 80 PVC pipeline between tanks and trough.
- 4) Dig a 3' deep by 6' wide by 11' long hole to accommodate new fiberglass walk-in trough. The trough would have mortar and concrete steps and escape ramp installed after setting to accommodate all wildlife.
- 5) Install a 24' wide by 72' long metal frame and R-panel apron over the tanks and along the ground where the apron existed.
- 6) Install a 150' X 150' wildlife friendly piperail perimeter fence to exclude livestock and place a 30' X 80' "Elk" enclosure fence around apron and tanks to prevent damage to the device or injury to wildlife.

The primary purpose of constructing this project is to provide reliable and permanent source of water for wildlife. Minimal surface disturbance would be associated with the installation of materials. Any excavation or soil disturbance would occur on undisturbed ground.

Man-made structures will always affect the visual resource of the natural landscape in some manner. The key is to minimize these impacts to the greatest extent practicable. Visual resources would be shortly affected over the construction phase. Effort would be made to keep the catchment components as inconspicuous as possible, using various camouflage techniques. Commonly used techniques include painting with earthtone colors or acid stains, breaking up linear shapes with sculptured concrete, covering components with soil, rock, or dead limbs, or burying components underground. When feasible, the walk-in water troughs, tanks, and connecting pipelines would be

partially or wholly buried underground, however, if soil conditions impede digging to the desired depth (approximately 3 to 5 feet), other camouflage techniques would be used to hide the components.

All materials placed at the project site and other extraneous construction materials would be removed from the sites and disposed of properly. Disturbed surfaces would be leveled and smoothed. Disturbance to vegetation would be kept to a minimum. Workers would camp in previously disturbed areas near the site. The catchment project is estimated to take approximately 8 days to complete.

The minimum number of tools necessary to complete the project would be transported to the site via trucks using an existing two-track road. The trucks would transport small hand tools and miscellaneous hardware. The backhoe would excavate a hole for the tank, trough, and pipeline at the site, and help position these components into place. The backhoe would be used in undisturbed areas inside the perimeter fence area. When the project is completed, the construction crew would lightly rake out tire tracks from the backhoe and trucks.

In addition to the backhoe and trucks, other mechanized/motorized equipment to be used at the site including a generator, welder, compressor, and concrete mixer. The motorized generator would run during the day, for the duration of the project, for approximately 6 to 8 hours daily. It would provide power for electric drills, a metal chop saw, welder. The welder and concrete mixer would be used for approximately 12 hours, over 8 days. When not in use all motorized equipment would be turned off.

Most construction work would occur on weekdays and during daylight hours in order to minimize the negative impacts to visitors and wildlife. Overall, the proposed redevelopment activities should have less impact on outdoor values and users, then hauling water to the catchment. To ensure the catchment is functioning properly, and immediately provide water for area wildlife, we would partially fill the system.

Increased human activity and noise associated with redevelopment activities could have a minor, short-term negative impact, on wildlife in the area of the site and vehicle traffic. The minor and temporary stress would be auditory and visual. Some wildlife may temporarily leave the project area during redevelopment activities, possibly for the duration of the project, approximately 8 days. Catchment development would occur during the cooler (October - April) months, so not to deprive wildlife of moisture and reduce stress. The catchments would be partially filled upon completion of the project.

No significant amount of annual maintenance is anticipated, other than occasional inspections by Regional staff and others to ensure the development is functioning. Exposed surfaces may be periodically repainted, recoated, or require minor repairs.

## **COORDINATION**

AZ Game and Fish Dept. Development Branch & Region III, BLM Kingman District Office, & AZ Desert Bighorn Sheep Society

**NEPA** - Will NEPA compliance be completed by a Federal Agency?

No \_\_\_ Yes X If yes, list agency BLM Kingman District Office

## **PROJECT MAP**

Map and project drawings are attached.

# ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

**PROJECT NAME:** # 1187 – Rincon Water Development Construction

**WILL THIS PROJECT:**

(double click box to check/uncheck)

YES    NO

- |                          |                          |    |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----|---|
| X                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | A. | <b>Items A &amp; B to be completed by Development Branch, Engineering Section.</b><br>Include construction, major modification, emergency construction or additions to buildings, shooting ranges, roads, parking and passenger loading zones, walkways, trails, accessibility, public use facilities, water control structures or impoundments (ADA Compliance)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | B. | Require substantive consumption of energy to complete or maintain this project (heavy equipment, large vessels, etc.) or result in increased energy use by the general public (new public use areas, etc.)?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | C. | <b>Items C &amp; D to be completed by Nongame Branch, Endangered Species Coordinator.</b><br>Affect any species protected under the Endangered Species Act and/or candidate species? (Check yes for positive and/or negative impacts) If yes, identify species and impact(s).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | D. | Affect any species listed as Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona. If yes, identify species.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | E. | <b>Items E - S to be completed by the Project Coordinator.</b><br>Include the introduction of or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location?  |
| X                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | F. | Directly necessitate mortality or displacement of native plants, fish or wildlife, either intentionally or incidentally?  |
| X                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | G. | Cause any ground disturbance or affect any archaeological, historical, religious shrine or cultural site or alter the aesthetics of the area?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | H. | Have substantive sociological or socioeconomic consequences or affect public health and safety?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | I. | Be expected to have organized opposition, or generate substantial public controversy?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | J. | Involve land use changes such as planting, burning, clearing, grazing, or modification of public use?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | K. | Be located on or in the vicinity of lands owned or administered by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission and Department?   |
| X                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | L. | Involve the manipulation or use of surface or groundwater, or modify or deny access for water usage?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | M. | Involve any modification to, or development in a flood plain or wetland?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | N. | Affect a designated Wilderness Area, Wild or Scenic River, prime or unique farmland or forestland, any ecologically critical area, National Trail, or other areas with special designation?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | O. | Result in any activity that will conflict with federal or state air or water quality regulations?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | P. | Include use or potential release of any toxicant?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | Q. | Have any environmental impacts not addressed above, or result in cumulative impacts that separately do not require assessment but together may be considered substantial?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | X                        | R. | Require any federal, state or other permits? (Clean Water Act Sec. 401, 404; Arizona Department of Agriculture Salvage Permit; ROW for access; etc.)  |
| X                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | S. | Other NEPA compliance completed, and attached. (Federal EA, FONSI, DN, BAE, ROD)  |

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST  
DEVELOPMENT EXPLANATION OF “YES” RESPONSES**

**PROJECT NAME:** # 1187 – Rincon Water Development Construction

**IDENTIFY THE ITEM LETTER(S) AND PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION:**

Development: For any item (A or B) that received a “yes” response, describe the impact(s) or issue(s) and explain information or actions that will be implemented to address/resolve the particular item(s). If necessary, coordinate with Habitat Branch and Nongame Branch to complete explanation(s).

Item A:           This project would involve the development of a new water catchment, specifically, the placement of 2 fiberglass ring tanks, fiberglass walk-in trough, and metal apron within the area already surveyed for cultural resources. Precipitation would be collected on the aprons and channeled into holding tanks and then diverted as needed to the walk-in trough.

The water catchment specifications were designed and approved by the Development Branch Engineering section. No portion of this project is intended for human use, and therefore ADA compliance standards are not applicable.

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST  
NONGAME EXPLANATION OF “YES” RESPONSES**

**PROJECT NAME:** # 1187 – Rincon Water Development Construction

**IDENTIFY THE ITEM LETTER(S) AND PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION:**

Nongame: For any item (C or D) that received a “yes” response, describe the impact(s) or issue(s) and explain information or actions that will be implemented to address/resolve the particular item(s).

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST  
PROJECT COORDINATOR EXPLANATION OF “YES” RESPONSES**

**PROJECT NAME:** # 1187 – Rincon Water Development Construction

**IDENTIFY THE ITEM LETTER(S) AND PROVIDE A DETAILED EXPLANATION:**

Project Coordinator: For any item (E through S) that received a “yes” response, describe the impact(s) or issue(s) and explain information or actions that will be implemented to address/resolve the particular item(s). If necessary, coordinate with Habitat Branch and Nongame Branch to complete explanation(s).

- Item F:        Some direct mortality would occur to some annual, and a few perennial, native plants. A few plants may be intentionally removed, trimmed, or accidentally crushed. Reasonable attempts would be made to minimize these impacts, particularly to species protected by the Arizona Native Plant Statues, category A, “Highly Safeguarded Protected Native Plants”. Small animals (e.g. invertebrates, small mammals, and herps) could possibly be dug up or crushed during construction. When feasible, wildlife encountered within the construction zone would be moved out of harm’s way, likely less than 100’ from the project site.
- Item G:        Approximately 2000 square feet of ground would be disturbed during the installation of the water storage tank, trough, apron and pipelines. BLM conducted an archaeological resource survey and no significant cultural artifacts were present or would be impacted by the project. If any cultural resources are found while the project is in process all work will cease until a BLM archealogist can inspect findings and determine that the project can procede. To help preserve the visual aesthetics of the surrounding landscape, the water catchment components may be painted with earth tone (cryptic) colors, buried underground, and/or covered with deadfall, rocks, or soil from the immediate area.
- Item L:        This project would involve the collection of precipitation to fill the catchment. The development would not be for use by the public, nor does it qualify in size under the regulation of the Department of Water Resources.
- Item S:        BLM determined that the proposed work on the water development would be XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX and have no significant impact on biological or cultural resources.

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST  
SIGNATURES**

**PROJECT NAME:** # 1187 – Rincon Water Development Construction

Project Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(EA Checklist items E - S)

Project Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Approval of funding source and availability)

Nongame \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(EA Checklist items C and D)

Engineering \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(EA Checklist items A and B)  
(If engineering components are involved in the project)

Regional Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(If EA Checklist covers multiple Regions)

Assistant Director, WMD \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(If EA Checklist is for a translocation project or a controversial issue)

Habitat \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
EA required: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other NEPA compliance documents: \_\_\_\_\_  
This project is assessed as Categorical Exclusion: \_\_\_\_\_



## **REFERENCES**

- A. Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (P.L.93-112).
- B. National Environmental Policy Act, 1969; CEQ Guidelines, 40 CFR (1502.16 part e).
- C. Section 7, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
- D. Wildlife of Special Concern; Same species as listed in “Threatened Native Wildlife in Arizona (1988).”
- E. Executive Order 11987, Exotic Organisms; Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species; and 50 CFR 92.
- F. Arizona Native Plant Law (ARS 3-901 to 3-915, 3-931 to 3-934).
- G. Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment, (P.L. 93-291); Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (U.S.C. 470), EO 11593; Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, 5-24-74; CEQ guidelines, Federal Register 43(230), 11-29-78, Section 1508.8; Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (P.L. 101-601); American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) (42 U.S.C.1996); Arizona Antiquities Act of 1927 (ARS 41-841 to 41-846); State Historic Preservation Act of 1982 (ARS 41-861 to 41-864); and the Burial Protection Law of 1990 (ARS 41-865).
- H. Acquisition and Disposition of Lands and Waters (ARS 17-241); Agreements with other entities for wildlife management (ARS-231); Arizona Game & Fish Department Policy Manual (I2.4N).
- I. Water development and use (ARS-231/12c)
- J. Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management; Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands; the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977, (P.L. 95-217); and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality standards (Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Ch 11(401)).
- K. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, (P.L. 90-542); Wilderness Act, (P.L. 88-577); National Trails Act, (P.L. 90-543); Federal Land Planning Documents.
- L. Clean Air Act of 1970, (P.L. 91-604); Federal Water Pollution Control Act, (P.L. 92-500); Executive Order 11738; the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977, (P.L. 95-217); and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality standards (Arizona Administrative Code Title 18, Ch 11(401) .
- M. Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544).